

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coherent light source, comprising:
a two-electrode laser diode provided with an active region having an
5 active layer that emits light due to injection of a current, and a phase control
region that has a layer that is contiguous with the active layer and in which a
change in refractive index is caused by injection of current; and
an optical waveguide device in which a distributed Bragg reflector
(hereinafter, abbreviated as DBR) region is formed;
10 wherein laser light that is emitted from the two-electrode laser diode
is coupled optically into an optical waveguide of the optical waveguide device,
and a portion of the laser light that is emitted from the two-electrode laser
diode is reflected by the DBR region and returned to the two-electrode laser
diode, thereby locking an oscillation wavelength.
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2. The coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein an emission end face of the two-electrode laser diode and an
incidence end face of the optical waveguide device are in opposition to one
another, and the laser light emitted from the two-electrode laser diode is
20 optically coupled directly into the optical waveguide of the optical waveguide
device.
3. The coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein the laser light that is emitted from the two-electrode laser
25 diode is coupled optically into the optical waveguide of the optical waveguide
device via an optical fiber.
4. The coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein the phase control region has an active layer that is
30 contiguous with the active layer of the active region and that has been
disordered, so that an injection of current causes a change in refractive index
but does not cause laser oscillation.
5. The coherent light source according to claim 1,
35 wherein the optical waveguide device is a wavelength conversion
device that employs second harmonic generation.

6. The coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein an electrode is formed in the phase control region, and by
applying current or voltage through the electrode, a phase state inside a
resonator of the two-electrode laser diode is changed.
- 5 7. The coherent light source according to claim 2,
wherein the DBR region is disposed substantially adjacent to the
emission end face of the laser diode-side.
- 10 8. The coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein an inactive region in which the active layer has been
disordered is formed in an end face portion of the two-electrode laser diode,
and current is not injected into the inactive region.
- 15 9. The coherent light source according to claim 5,
wherein a wavelength difference between a phase matching
wavelength of the wavelength conversion device and a DBR wavelength of
the DBR region is not more than 2 nm.
- 20 10. The coherent light source according to claim 5,
wherein in an operation temperature range, a phase matching
wavelength of the wavelength conversion device is longer than a DBR
wavelength of the DBR region.
- 25 11. The coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein the optical waveguide device is an optical modulator.
12. A method for driving a coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein a current and a voltage that are supplied to the DBR region
30 and the phase control region are changed simultaneously to allow an
oscillation wavelength of the laser diode to be changed continuously.
13. A method for driving a coherent light source according to claim 1,
wherein modulation of an output intensity of the laser diode is
35 performed by changing a current and a voltage that are supplied to the active
region and the phase control region at reversed phases.